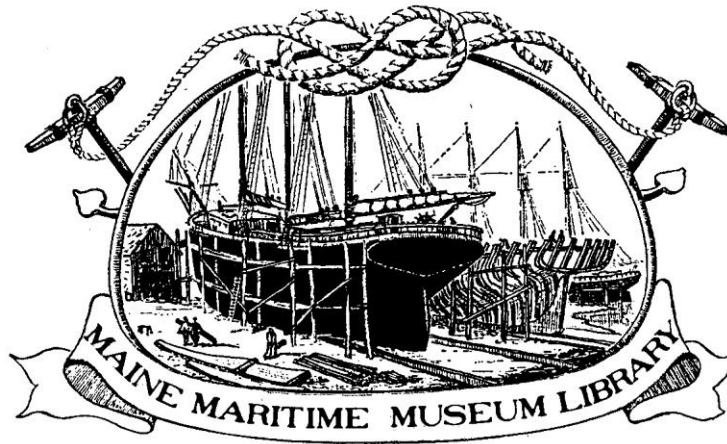


**Maine Maritime Museum Library**

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**Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection  
MS - 34**

**Henry L. Kingsbury Papers**

**1909-1973**

by  
Elisabeth Meier  
August 2018

1 box  
.4 linear feet

*Accession no. 75.77.1-18, 75.77.113, and 91.7*

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## **Abstract**

### **Kingsbury, Henry L (1899-1975)**

#### **Papers, 1909-1973**

1 box

Sailor, shipyard worker, and model maker in Bath, Maine.

Daybooks, employment slips, notes, receipts, clippings, and ship plans from Henry L. Kingsbury (1899-1975). Kingsbury was variously a sailor on coastal freighters, a chipper at Bath Iron Works, a backyard shipbuilder, and a model maker. This collection documents parts of his career at sea and at Bath Iron Works, the construction of the 28' pinky schooner that Kingsbury built for himself, and his interests in ship modeling and local maritime history.

Gift of Terry Geaghan and the Henry Kingsbury Estate.

MS-034. Accession #75.77.1-18, 75.77.113, and 91.7.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

#### **Added entries—persons:**

Garden, William (1918-2011)

Kingsbury, Henry L. (1899-1975)

#### **Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):**

Bath Iron Works

*Cora F. Cressy* (five-mast schooner)

*Mer Gris* (two-mast schooner)

*Wyoming* (Schooner)

#### **Added entries—key terms:**

Labor

Merchant seamen

Models and modelmaking

Naval architecture – Design and plans

Pinkies

Sailmaking

Ship models

Shipbuilding – Maine – Bath

Shipbuilding – Employees

Shipbuilding – Materials

Ships, iron and steel

## **Acquisition**

This collection was given in two gifts: one in 1975, directly from Henry Kingsbury's estate, and one from Kingsbury's friend Terry Geaghan in 1991.

## **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on this collection.

## Physical Condition

The papers are mostly in good condition, although the newspaper clippings are becoming brittle with age. The day books are very worn and dirty, with stressed bindings and loose, wrinkled covers.

## Related Materials

A group of photographs from this collection have been filed separately as PC-334. This photo collection contains family photos, images of vessels that Henry Kingsbury and his father sailed on, and photos from trips taken on the pinky schooner *Mer Gris* or *Annie McGee*.

Henry Kingsbury's estate also donated two gasoline engines (72.92.109 and .110), an unfinished model of the Baltimore clipper *Dos Amigos* (76.61), a large collection of magazines, and a booklet, titled *Navigation by Diagram*, which is now in SM 189/4. A naval chief petty officer's uniform worn by Henry's brother, George Kingsbury, is also in the collection (75.92.1).

## Historical Note

Henry L. Kingsbury (1899-1975) was the son of Henry Kingsbury, a fisherman, and Annie (Magee) Kingsbury. He was born in Boston, but the family moved to Georgetown by 1903 and Bath by 1918.

Henry Kingsbury spent his early career at sea in the merchant marine, where he served as an able seaman and quartermaster on coastal steamships. He spent much of the 1930s in Boston as a carpenter, but returned to Bath after the outbreak of World War II. In Bath, Kingsbury worked as a chipper at Bath Iron Works, a job he held until his retirement in the mid-1960s.

When temporarily laid off by BIW just after World War II, Kingsbury began building a vessel of his own. He launched the 28' 6" pinky schooner, based on plans from naval architect William Garden, circa 1958.<sup>1</sup> Kingsbury also became a ship modeler, producing models of the Bath-built schooners *Wyoming* and *Cora F. Cressy*, and maintained an active interest in the region's maritime history.<sup>2</sup>

## Scope and Content Note

This collection documents Henry Kingsbury's career, the construction of his pinky schooner, and his ship modeling work. It also contains postcards and newspaper clippings that Kingsbury collected. As such, it is a record of a twentieth-century maritime laborer and maritime enthusiast.

Kingsbury's career at sea is represented by his able seaman certificate and a small sheaf of discharge slips from various American cargo ships. His work as a chipper at Bath Iron Works

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<sup>1</sup> I have not been able to determine the name of Kingsbury's pinky. It may have been called *Mer Gris* (the pinky photographed in the Kingsbury photo collection, PC-334), *Glad Tidings* (as it was named, with a question mark, in accession documents for the collection), or *Annie McGee* (as stated by one of the *Annie McGee*'s later captains: <https://flamingfish.net/annie-mc-gee.php>). Dorothy Lee, who photographed Kingsbury's pinky on the morning he left for his last voyage, called the vessel *Annie Magee* in a note on the back.

<sup>2</sup> Biography derived from US Census records, draft cards, the Social Security Index, and Massachusetts vital records (all digitized via familysearch.org), Bath city directories, and material in this collection.

is documented in detail by a series of nine daybooks that list the work Kingsbury completed on any given day between 1942 and 1945.

The construction of Kingsbury's pinky schooner is also well documented. There are plans for a 28'6" pinky by William Garden, which Kingsbury presumably worked from, several letters from Garden to Kingsbury, bills for materials purchased, and correspondence and canvas samples from several sailmakers. There is also a brief account of a sailing excursion in 1973. Material on Kingsbury's ship modeling is scantier, but includes plans, cardboard patterns, and notes on several vessels.

The clippings in this collection fall into four groups: instructions and plans for boatbuilding, material on building model ships, histories of Bath-built sailing ships, and newspapers published by Bath Iron Works. There is also a folder of newspaper articles transcribed by hand. Most of these are about the Kingsbury family.

## Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	
1	1	Able seaman certificate and merchant marine discharge slips, 1924-1926
		Daybooks of work completed, Henry Kingsbury, chipper at Bath Iron Works
	2	August 26 – [November] 1942
		November 14, 1942 – September 15, 1943
		January 20 – May 5, 1944; hull #242
	3	May 13 – September 23, 1944; hull #250
		October 3 – December 12, 1944
		December 13, 1944 – March 12, 1945
	4	March 13 – May 12, 1945; hull #258
		May 12 – July 30, 1945; hulls #258, 259 and 266
		July 30 – October 16, 1945
	5	Unemployment slip and home inspection notice
	6	Vessel plans, houseboat <i>Kennebec</i>
	7	28' 6" pinky schooner, by William Garden
	8	6' 6" dinghy <i>Pootzy</i>
	9	Pinky schooner, correspondence with William Garden, 1949-1950
	10	Accounts, construction & materials, 1949-1961
	11	Accounts and correspondence, sails, 1958-1973
	12	Journal of a trip to Portland, 1973
	13	Ship modeling, <i>Cora F. Cressy</i> (five-mast schooner), notes and drawings
	14	<i>Wyoming</i> (six-mast schooner), notes and drawings
	16	Miscellaneous notes and tool designs
	17	Postcards
	18	Ephemera
	19	Transcriptions of newspaper articles, 1909-1911
	20	Newspaper clippings, pinkies
	21	Practical boatbuilding
	22	Ship modeling
	23	Maine ships—history, wrecks, preservation
	24	Maritime heritage; Bath Marine Museum
	25	Bath Iron Works
	26	Contemporary maritime affairs, 1953-1968